

DUCK VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION BIA ROAD SHOP CLEANUP AND PIPELINE REMOVAL PROJECT

June 14, 1999

Owyhee, Nevada

This fact sheet has been produced for the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Indian Community to provide information on activities surrounding the cleanup activities at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Roads Maintenance Shop (Roads Shop) and Yard, and the removal of a heating fuel pipeline in the Owyhee community which began in June 1999.

Why Is Work Being Done?

In the late-1980's, a petroleum odor was detected in the communities' ground water supply. Working with EPA, BIA has been conducting various cleanup activities around the community in attempts to identify and eliminate all sources which could be contributing to ground water contamination.

What Have We Found?

The main contaminant of concern for this site has been hydrocarbons—heating fuel and gasoline. Excavations in the Shed complex at the BIA Road Shop last week have detected unexpected levels of two herbicides: dinoseb and 2,4-D (chemical name: 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid). These chemicals were discovered at a distance where we do not believe drinking water has been impacted. Past drinking water samples show no levels of these compounds.

Because these chemicals were not expected to be in the soil during the excavation, BIA has taken additional precautions to protect the health of the Owyhee community and the contractors working on the site.

What Precautions Are Being Taken?

1. BIA has closed off access to the BIA Roads Shop Yard. Please observe all restricted areas and do not enter into the BIA Roads Shop Yard.
2. Within the next couple of days, as early as Wednesday, June 16, contractors will be entering the Roads Shop Yard to ensure that the chemicals are isolated and will not impact the health of the community.

It might be necessary for them to conduct their work in protective gear. This should not alarm you as these are precautions that they must take because of their proximity to the material.

Health Effects and Exposure

Sample results that were taken in the third bay from the south in the Shed Complex at the BIA Roads Shop Yard were:

Hydrocarbons	5900 ppm
Dinoseb	640 ppm
2, 4-D	400 ppm
2,4-D	270 ppm

Dinoseb:

This is an herbicide which has traditionally been used as a weed killer. The symptoms of dinoseb exposure are: chest and abdominal pains, excessive thirst, intermittent fever shortness of breath; insomnia; and loss of appetite.

The pathways for dinoseb exposure are mainly through contact with the skin and dust inhalation.

2,4-D:

This is an herbicide. Symptoms of 2,4-D exposure are muscle weakness, lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pains, headache, or shortness of breath.

Exposure pathways are ingestion and skin and eye contact.

Creosote:

No creosote was detected in the BIA Roads Shop Yard; however, information is being provided about this chemical because it has historically been used by BIA.

Creosote is commonly used as a wood preservative. Symptoms of creosote exposure are nausea, vomiting, irritation of respiratory tract, coughing, choking, and eye and skin irritation. The main routes of exposure are via skin and eye contact and inhalation.

What Should I Do?

BIA is working with the tribe and qualified contractors to isolate all threats to human health. Citizens living in Owyhee should not have overexposure symptoms to any of these chemicals. However, if you feel

that you have been exposed to any of these chemicals, please consult your physician.

More Information:

We will make every effort to keep the Owyhee community involved and informed about the ongoing work in the community. Both BIA and EPA have been working closely with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Government. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following people.

John Krause
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Phoenix Area Office
400 North 5th Street
Phoenix, Arizona
602-379-6750

Hillary Hecht
U.S. EPA, R9
75 Hawthorne Street (WTR 9)
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-744-1890

Lee Roberts
Marcie Phillips
Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
775-757-3211

Dinoseb:

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The pathways for dinoseb exposure are mainly through contact with the skin and dust inhalation.

2,4-D:

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